Keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, their allocations for the APL category were rationalized from June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, by linking them to the offtake figures of the past three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

From January, 2008 to February, 2009, various State and UT Governments have requested for additional allocations of 7.61 lakh tons of rice and 3.62 lakh tons of wheat per month for APL category.

Allocations of rice for APL category to States/UTs for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Allocations of wheat during 2008-09 were initially made at earlier rationalized levels but in view of higher procurement in RMS 2008-09 and requests of State and UT Govts., additional allocations have been made subsequently.

With these additional allocations, during 2008-09, the total quantities of rice and wheat allocated under TPDS are 241.62 lakh tons of rice and 142.42 lakh tons of wheat.

In addition to TPDS, also about 24 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated under Open Market Sales Scheme to increase its availability for consumers.

Release of foodgrains to Orissa

602. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government is not able to release foodgrains like rice and wheat as per the requirement of the States; and

(b) what was the requisition of Orissa for the year 2005 to 2008 and the quantity released by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made as per allocation norms @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families for all the States/UTs, including the State of Orissa. This norm is based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration cards issued to them by each State/UT, whichever is less. These allocations are not made on the basis of demands of any State/UT.

Full quantities of foodgrains are allocated to BPL and AAY families as per the above norms and no reduction has been made in their allocation.

However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and also on the basis of its offtake by the States/UTs.

Keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, a uniform decision was taken to rationalize wheat and rice allocations from the Central Pool stocks for the APL

category under the TPDS which was implemented *w.e.f.* June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, by linking them to the offtake figures of the previous three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Further, in view the constraints on availability of rice in the Central Pool due to lower procurement during KMS 2006-07 and KMS 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, including Orissa, allocations of rice for APL category to States/UTs for 2008-09 have been made on the basis of average of offtake level of APL rice during 2006-07 and 2007-08. Allocations of wheat during 2008-09 were initially made at earlier rationalized levels bill in view of higher procurement in RMS 2008-09, additional allocations have been made subsequently.

However, 7.42 lakh APL families of KBK districts of Orissa are also being allocated foodgrains @ 35 kgs. per family per month at BPL issue price due to special problems of these districts.

The allocation (including adhoc/additional allocation) and offtake of foodgrains in respect of Orissa for the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09 are as follows:

(in thousand tons)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2005-06	2852.256	1357.671
2006-07	2535.682	1248.271
2007-08	1900.067	1627.519
2008-09	1845.504	1371.064*

*upto December, 2008.

Import of edible oils

603. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with an increased uncertainty in the domestic market and weakening international market, edible oil importers are now reluctant to enter into new contracts for the imports as prices have fallen considerably by 20-28 per cent in the last one month after the duty cut announced by Government;

(b) whether Government has brought down import duties on crude palm oil to 20 per cent from 45 per cent and refined palm oil and RBD palmolein to 27.5 per cent from 52.5 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to import oil so that shortage is met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As on 16.02.2009, the wholesale domestic prices of soyabean oil, mustard oil, groundnut oil and sunflower oil have declined by 4.77%, 12.60%, 11.86% and 8.91% respectively during the last one month, whereas the international prices of crude palm oil and soyabean oil have increased by 8.91% and 4.48% respectively during the same period. There has been an increase of about 19% in import of edible oils during January,